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NOTE ON THE POSITION OF NOVA AQUILAE.

Mr. Tucker has kindly handed to me the following note on the position of *Nova Aquilae*:

"Meridan Circle. *Nova Aquilae*. Mean place 1918.0. From eight observations, four clamp west and four east: between June 10 and July 18, inclusive.

Epoch 1918.495; R. A. $18^{\text{h}}44^{\text{m}}43^{\text{s}}.511$ ($\pm 0^{\text{s}}.007$); Decl. $+0^{\circ}29'30''.19$ ($\pm 0''.14$). Fundamental star places from the *American Ephemeris*."

Micrometer measures with the 36-inch telescope were made on June 11, 1918, connecting *Nova Aquilae* with the 8.5 magnitude star A. G. Nicolajew 4685. These gave for the position of the Nova for 1918.0, R. A. $= 18^{\text{h}}44^{\text{m}}43^{\text{s}}.51$; Decl. $= +0^{\circ}29'30''.9$.

The close agreement of this result with Mr. Tucker's very accurate meridian circle measures is of interest, for it exceeds that to be expected from the probable error of the average A. G. Catalog star place.

It may be added that on this and on later nights a sharp red image of the Nova could be formed by drawing the telescope tube out well beyond the normal stellar focus. Doubtless this image was due to the hydrogen $\text{H}\alpha$ emanation which was already very strong.

July, 1918.

R. G. AITKEN.

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSES OF THE NEAR FUTURE

The total solar eclipse of May 29, 1919, will no doubt attract several observers if the international conditions are not too serious. The shadow path will cross centrally over South America, the Atlantic Ocean, and Africa. The total phase will begin at sunrise off the coast of Northern Chile at longitude $+75^{\circ}\text{W}$ and latitude 20°S . It will pass over Tacna in Chile, La Paz in Bolivia, over Brazil, and emerge from South America at longitude 39°W , latitude 3°S . It will pass over the St. Paul Rocks a few hundred miles north-east of the coast of Brazil, over Princes Island near the Congo coast of Africa, enter the African coast in longitude 9°E , latitude 1°N , and terminate at sunset at a point between the north end of Madagascar and the mainland of Africa. The eclipse duration is of unusual length. The total phase will last 6 minutes 50 seconds in the mid-Atlantic Ocean. The duration on the coast of Brazil is